

Application No. 10/074,162
Amendment dated May 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

~~an monolithic~~ elongated member including a first material and a second material, the first material being at least semi-transparent and the second material being substantially non-transparent, the elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by at least a portion of the first material that extends from the cavity to ~~an outer surface of the elongated member~~ two or more separate outer surface regions of the elongated member, wherein at least part of the outer surface between the two or more separate regions is substantially non-transparent.

2. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the cavity is at least partially defined by at least a portion of the second material.

3. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second material is at least partially reflective.

4. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the second

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material includes a surface that is shaped to help reflect light toward the first material.

5. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the shaped surface is parabolic in shape.

6. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first material includes a surface that is shaped as a lens.

7. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a slit or opening that extends between the cavity and the exterior of the elongated member to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the cavity along a length of the elongated member.

8. (Cancel)

9. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first material and the second material are integrally formed in a single piece.

10. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first material and the second material are formed separately and subsequently ~~integrally~~ secured

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together into a single piece.

11. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source is an electro-luminescent wire.

12. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source is a linear emitting fiber.

13. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

a first elongated piece;

a second elongated piece;

at least a portion of the first elongated piece being transparent or semi-transparent;

at least a portion of the second elongated piece being substantially non-transparent;

the first elongated piece and the second elongated piece defining a cavity for receiving the elongated light source; and

at least one of the first elongated piece and the second elongated piece having an elongated ~~slit~~ opening along at least part of its length that extends between the cavity and the exterior of the lighting apparatus, the ~~slit~~ opening adapted to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the cavity along a length of the lighting apparatus.

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14. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the first elongated piece and the second elongated piece are integrally formed.

15. (Unchanged) A lighting apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the first elongated piece and the second elongated piece are separately formed and subsequently secured together.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for making an elongated member for receiving an elongated light source, the method comprising the steps of:

co-extruding an elongated member with a first material and a second material, the first material being at least semi-transparent and the second material being substantially non-transparent, the elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by at least a portion of the first material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member, the elongated member further having an elongated slit or opening that extends between the cavity and the exterior of the elongated member to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the cavity along a length of the elongated member.

17. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 16 wherein the cavity is also at least

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partially defined by at least a portion of the second material.

18. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 16 wherein the second material is at least partially reflective.

19. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 18 wherein the second material includes a surface that is shaped to help reflect light toward the first material.

20. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 19 wherein the shaped surface is parabolic in shape.

21. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 16 wherein the first material includes a surface that is shaped as a lens.

22. (Cancel)

23. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 16 wherein the portion of the first material that at least partially defines the cavity extends to two or more separate outer surface regions of the elongated member, wherein at least part of the outer surface between the two or more separate regions is substantially non-transparent.

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24. (Previously Presented) A lighting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source includes a glow-in-the-dark material.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A lighting apparatus for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member including a first material and a second material, the first material being at least semi-transparent and the second material being substantially non-transparent, the elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by at least a portion of the first material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member; and

a slit that extends between the cavity and the exterior of the elongated member to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the cavity along a length of the elongated member.

27. (New) A method for making an elongated member for receiving an elongated light source, the method comprising the steps of:

co-extruding an elongated member with a first material and a second material, the first

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material being at least semi-transparent and the second material being substantially non-transparent, the elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by at least a portion of the first material that extends from the cavity to two or more separate outer surface regions of the elongated member, wherein at least part of the outer surface between the two or more separate regions is substantially non-transparent.

28. (New) A lighting apparatus for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:
an elongated member including a first material and a second material, the first material being at least semi-transparent and the second material being substantially non-transparent, the elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by at least a portion of the first material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member; and
the elongated member further defining a slot for receiving a bumper member.

29. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the first material and the second material are formed as separate pieces, and subsequently secured together.

30. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the first material and the second material are formed as a single unitary piece.

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31. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the elongated opening is a slit.

32. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the elongated member has a viewing side for viewing light emitted by the elongated light source and one or more non-viewing sides, wherein the slit or opening extends along one of the non-viewing sides.

33. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the lighting apparatus has a viewing side for viewing light emitted by the elongated light source and one or more non-viewing sides, wherein the slit or opening extends along one of the non-viewing sides.

34. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the elongated member has a viewing side for viewing light emitted by the elongated light source and one or more non-viewing sides, wherein the slit or opening extends along one of the non-viewing sides.

35. (New) A lighting apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the elongated member has a viewing side for viewing light emitted by the elongated light source and one or more non-viewing sides, wherein the slit extends along one of the non-viewing sides.